

**MINUTES OF THE
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2007

At a meeting of the **Planning and Economic Development Committee**, held Wednesday, October 10, 2007, in the Board Room, on the 9th Floor of the Administration Building, Mount Clemens, the following members were present:

Vosburg-Chair, Brdak, Brown, Camphous-Peterson, DeSaele, DiMaria, Duzyj, Gielegem, Mijac, Rengert, Roberts and Crouchman (ex-officio).

Absent and excused were Drolet and Haggerty.

Other Commissioners Also Present:

Commissioner Bruley
Commissioner Joan Flynn
Commissioner Lund
Commissioner Sauger

There being a quorum of the committee present, Chair Vosburg called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA

Chair Vosburg added a resolution, at the request of Commissioner Rengert, commending the Juvenile Justice Center School on being accredited by the Correctional Education Association. She added this as item #9A.

MOTION

A motion was made by DiMaria, supported by Camphous-Peterson, to adopt the agenda, as amended. **The Motion Carried.**

MINUTES

MOTION

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by Camphous-Peterson, to approve the September 11, 2007 minutes of this committee, as written. **The Motion Carried.**

ADOPT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING PROJECT AREA AND PROJECT DISTRICT AREA AND REQUESTING APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL DIRECTORS FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT REVENUE BOND FINANCING FOR TPA, INC. OF WARREN

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION - MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DUZYJ, SUPPORTED BY RENGERT, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ADOPT A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING PROJECT AREA AND PROJECT DISTRICT AREA AND REQUESTING APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL DIRECTORS FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT REVENUE BOND FINANCING FOR TPA, INC. OF WARREN.

Mr. Tess gave an overview of this request. As stated in the memorandum from Mr. Cassin dated October 10, 2007, The Power Alternative (TPA) was incorporated in 2006 for the purpose of establishing a biodiesel production operation. TPA is contracting for renovations to an existing building and will be purchasing new machinery and equipment. Their investment in this operation is projected at \$3 million.

A brief discussion ensued with Mr. Tess about challenges for investors to come up with their end of the money, which is typically 20% of the project cost. It was felt that changes need to be made at the state level to make grants available to not only large companies, but to small businesses.

Chair Vosburg called for a vote on the motion and **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

PRESENTATION FROM SOLID GROUND

The following was distributed from Solid Ground: A brochure, Solid Ground Horizon newsletter, and a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Rozny introduced Ms. Doreen (Dee) McCardle, Executive Director, Solid Ground.

Ms. McCardle gave a PowerPoint presentation. Key topics covered included: Homeless Families, Myths about homelessness, Why is Solid Ground needed in Macomb County?, The Facilities, Program Objectives, Operational Capacity, Development Strategy, Historical Funding Sources, Construction Progress, and Professional Capacity.

MOTION

A motion was made by Rengert, supported by Gielegthem, to receive and file the presentation from Solid Ground.

Mr. Cassin informed committee members that the reason for this presentation is that Solid Ground will be requesting additional funding from the HOME Program.

Chair Vosburg called for a vote on the motion and **The Motion Carried.**

PRESENTATION ON METROMODE E-MAGAZINE

Mr. Cassin introduced Ms. Kathleen Owsley, Vice President of Public-Private Partnerships, Issue Media Group.

Ms. Owsley stated that they are a publishing company, not a marketing company. Their online magazines talk about growth and investment. Metromode is Southeast Michigan's online weekly magazine. She gave a PowerPoint presentation. She showed some of their weekly features and several clippings of all of their services. Key topics covered included: Syndication through Partners, Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, Who Reads Us..., How Readers Find Us..., Why It Works, and How the Publication is Funded.

She noted that the stakeholder of investment for Macomb County would be about \$60,000 annually (\$5,000 a month). Other key topics covered included: Blueprint for Southeast Michigan, Metromode - Macomb County Publication (Benefits to Macomb County), and Potential Partnership Opportunities.

MOTION

A motion was made by DeSaele, supported by Gielegghem, to receive and file the presentation on Metromode. **The Motion Carried.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cassin said that the Airport Study should be on next month's committee meeting agenda and that all commissioners will be invited to attend. He said that Mr. Morandini is at the airport awaiting a 16-hour flight to India. Two Macomb County companies (automotive-type suppliers) are attending with him and are going there to see if they can get contracts to build their business in Macomb County.

He then spoke about the M-59 Corridor Committee going strong. He informed committee members that his Economic Development staff is meeting daily with clients. The biggest thing they are hearing is how difficult it is to develop in Macomb County because of the permit process. They constantly get complaints that the permit process is taking six to nine months to get through. They will be meeting with communities on how they can start streamlining the business process.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION - MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RENGERT, SUPPORTED BY DUZYJ, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ADOPT A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER SCHOOL ON BEING ACCREDITED BY THE CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (**OFFERED BY RENGERT**). **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

A motion was made by Rengert, supported by Roberts, to adjourn the meeting at 10 a.m.
The Motion Carried.

Denise M. Jacks
Committee Reporter